

Introduction of GAIL as marketing agent of ONGC

4729. DR. A.K.PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce Gas Authority of India Limited as a marketing agent for the natural gas being sold by Oil & Natural Gas Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether introduction of intermediary is in line with the Government policy?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). A. M.O.U. has been entered into between ONGC and Gail according to which some gas transportation and marketing assets of ONGC would be transferred to GAIL.

Decentralisation of MCD

4730. DR. V.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision on the recommendation of the Sarkaria-Balakrishna committee Report regarding decentralisation of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). No final view has been taken in the matter so far.

Shortage of Raw wax in Kerala

4731. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of raw wax in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for increasing the quota of raw wax of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANANAD): (a) and (b). The indigenous production of paraffin wax and Slack Wax is not adequate to meet the full demand. Paraffin wax is imported to supplement the indigenous availability to the extent possible.

Passport office, Mangalore

4732. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to establish full-fledged passport office at Mangalore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this office is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). A proposal to open new Passport Offices is under consideration. Their number, location and timing will depend on the available additional financial and manpower resources.

[Translation]

Drug-Trafficking in Delhi

4733. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that drug-trafficking is going on in slums of Delhi; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have taken various legislative, administrative and preventive measures to counter the drug trafficking situation in the country. the Narcotice Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 has been enacted to eradicate this social evil. habitual drug peddlers are booked under this Act. Continuous watch is maintained on drug peddlars. Public is also educated through the media, posters and hoardings, slides in cinemas, staging of anti-drug short plays. De-addiction camp are organised to increase awariness among the people.

[English]

Shortfall in Sugarcane Production

4734. SHRI UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Sugarcane in Maharashtra is likely to fall due to prevailing drought conditions in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the estimated shortfall; and

(c) the steps taken to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY

RAMACHANDRAN): (a) According to the available reports from the State, the production of Sugarcane in Maharashtra during 1991-92 is likely to be higher than the targeted level of production of 327.5 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c). Question do not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Groundnut Seeds

4735. SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to export groundnut seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of groundnut seeds proposed to be exported during 1992-93 country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. Groundnut seeds are on the Banned List for export under the present Import and Export Policy, 1990-1993. government does not [purpose any such exports.

(b) and (c). do not arise.

[English]

Import of Tractors and Agriculture Machinerles

4736. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import tractors with less than 10. H.P. and other agricultural implements/machinery against the export of rice, cereals, cotton etc.;